

February 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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Steve Waterman

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

The more observant among you will have noticed some changes to our team list on the left. Our sincere thanks go to Pat Brittain who has supervised the collating, stapling and delivery of *DN* since 1994. Unfortunately we weren't able to give her a celebratory send-off but we did organise some gifts in time for Christmas. She was given a beautiful flower arrangement and a hamper, made up with purchases from the farmers' market and a well-known local deli. We also donated £200 to Pat's favourite local charity, Katharine House Hospice.

We welcome Netia and Kath to the team who only experienced slight arm twisting to join us and fortunately had a trial run with the December issue when Pat was unavoidably detained.

JC

Festive Takeaways

Our magnificent Covid team, along with the church, provided festive takeaway Christmas dinners for anyone who could benefit. Vicar Annie and the zone captains had asked around their patches to judge demand and take orders for Christmas Day delivery.

Al Kitchen and Alex Moss (plus some others) co-ordinated the event. Alex was chief chef, Daire Dowling on the gravy, Milson Westbury on sprouts, the O'Briens did the spuds, and Al was king of the carving knives.



Three
chaps
were in
the church
kitchen to
take in the
cooked
meals on
an agreed
timetable,
assemble
them and
bag them

up. There was turkey and stuffing, bread sauce, sprouts, parsnips, carrots, roast potatoes and gravy – and Christmas pud, brandy butter and mince pies to follow – and a festive hat and Christmas decoration, each bag tailored to individual needs. It sounded amazing. Twenty-six Christmas dinners were supplied to people who might otherwise have gone without. Feedback said the meal was delicious and much appreciated.

It was a community volunteer effort by the combined Covid and church team, our County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, who found the funds in his back pocket, and lots of willing volunteer cooks, delivery bods and clearers-uppers.

David Ward and Annie Goldthorp

The February cover painting is a view across the flooded Cherwell valley seen from the circular footpath just south of Clifton.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held via Skype on 16 Decmeber

Present: Collins, Cox, Higham, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, District Councillor Williams, County Councillor Fatemian, the parish clerk and two members of the public.

District Councillor Williams and County Councillor Fatemian were both thanked for their support over the year.

Windmill Management Committee presentation:

Mrs Ayles said there has been good ongoing use of the all weather court. The budget is dependent on revenue streams returning. The cost of repairs to the existing roof is likely to be in the region of £11,000 with a 20 year guarantee. No major repairs have been done previously. WMC was thanked for their hard work.

Finance and General Purposes

A 6% increase on the parish precept was agreed.

It was agreed to make £1,000 available to struggling youth groups.

£5,000 has been set aside for tree work to be carried out in March.

Planning

No objection

Southbourne, Holcombe Gardens: reduce crown of yew tree and remove two holly trees.

Castle End House, Castle Street: tree works.

May Fu II Restaurant, High Street: replace windows and access to first floor flat.

Church Farm Cottage, The Lane, Hempton: rear single storey extension.

Little Hardres, Holcombe Gardens: new window, removal of faux cladding.

St Anne's Residential Home, Main Street, Clifton: erection of visitors' cabin already built. Neighbour accepts on the understanding it is temporary. PC proposed a one year time limit.

The Beeches, Earls Lane: single storey extension to rear for disabled access.

Withdrawal

Wells Yard, Hudson Street: demolition of barn and garages, erection of three cottages.

Community Orchard

A summary of the survey was incorporated into a working paper indicating that 110 people were in favour of a community orchard and 43 against. The PC agreed that neither Gaveston Gardens nor Wimborn Close should be considered for a community orchard. A decision on progression was deferred until Councillor Eames returns in January.

Environment and Recreation

The WMC has agreed to the installation of a gate near the entrance to the property.

The fencing at the Pocket Park has now been done.

Repairs to the adventure playground are expected in January.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jill Cheeseman, and not the official minutes. For those, go to https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/0/6/72062771/december_2020.pdf.

Highways and Transport

The resident in Earls Lane with an electric charge point will be asked to charge the car overnight and remove it from yellow lines before school starts. The situation will be monitored by the PCSO. Any vehicles parked on yellow lines are at risk of fines.

An elderly persons crossing sign is to be erected on an existing post at Holcombe Close. Advice to be sought from OCC.

OCC to be asked to reinstate the directional arrows painted on the A4260.

A heavy goods vehicle 'no parking' sign has been installed at the layby at Hempton Road cemetery.

Meeting held via Skype 27 January

Present: Collins, Cox, Eames, Oldfield, O'Neill, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, District Councillor Williams, the parish clerk and four members of the public.

The notified vacancy for a parish councillor has been withdrawn.

Open Forum:

A Blue Cedar Homes representative addressed the PC regarding the proposed development at The Poplars, the land adjoining and west of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington, erecting seven one- and two-storey age-restricted dwellings. Mainly two bedroom, open market for sale, designed to meet the need of downsizers. He explained it would use around one-third of the field. The remainder will remain in its current ownership as agricultural space. Blue Cedar is a dedicated retirement housebuilder. The last version of the neighbourhood plan shows a need for this type of property in the area and none has been built locally in ten years. He suggested there could be an exclusivity sales period of say three months for parishioners to have the first option. The company has had discussions with Historic England. There would be a restrictive covenant with an age limit set at over 60s; although anyone could buy a property, the main occupier would have to be over 60. There would normally be restrictions placed on them by the planning authority.

Planning matter discussed at this point:

The proposal occupies around one-third of the field, keeping the remainder of the field open. Some comments received by the planning authority are in support, some objecting, including objections from five members of Friends of Castle Grounds. Historic England, responsible for the Castle, concludes that the development would cause 'less than substantial harm' to the scheduled monument. Some archaeological investigation has already been carried out. Historic England has requested a watching brief. Discussions with the highway authority are ongoing and they have asked for a road safety audit. Junction works are

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL *Continued from p2*

proposed at the end of Earls Lane. A footpath either side of the access road on Clifton Road is proposed.

Blue Cedar confirmed that by the time building work takes place, renewable technology for heating would be a planning condition.

DPC voted nine in favour, one abstention, one against, including proposing occupants be limited to over 60 year olds, requesting input on tree planting and archaeological overview,

District Councillor's report: Councillor Williams reported that although Covid infection numbers have reduced recently, CDC still has one of the highest rates in the country. Current Covid rates can be viewed at <https://phdashboard.oxfordshire.gov.uk/?view=cases&location=Cherwell>.

County Councillor report:

County Councillor Fatemian advised that he has some surplus in his priority fund and suggested any requests should be submitted quickly. £500 is to be requested for snow wardens' equipment and, any surplus, be requested for funding IT equipment for primary school children.

Finance and General Purposes

Council funds stand at £705,933.

The annual fair will arrive on 17 November and depart on 21 November, running from 18–20 November.

Planning

No objection

Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Chapel Square: change of use from place of worship to office space, no construction work to the current building.

Nellie and Dove, The Tchure: retrospective planning for erection of an awning. Request that awning height should be raised.

1 Chapel Square: tree works.

Neighbourhood Planning

All expected landowner responses have now been received, M&G being the main one, with the result that, even if all areas are developed, we would not meet CDC requirements. It was suggested that this be reviewed in 10 years' time. The environment group is drawing up a list of potential designated green spaces. PC should formally agree before public consultation.

Community Orchard

The group promoting the community orchard accepted the decision by DPC not to consider Gaveston Green or the land to the rear of Wimborn Close for this project. Other sites are being considered: with preference being for Welford's Piece, a fairly small piece of land which DPC owns, and Satin Lane allotments, the freeholder being M&G, with DPC the leaseholder. The group indicated they may be interested if a new development offered a space. Castle Grounds would be difficult because of the need to gain cooperation of Historic England. The group will be asked for details of the potential long-term liability for PC, including the cost of maintenance. The question was raised of availability of water at Welford's Piece.

Thames Water

Documents have been circulated regarding the problems with broken water-pipes at Clifton. It was agreed to write to the Consumer Council for Water, copying in TW, to establish ownership of the pipes and to support a parishioner who has suffered overflowing sewage in their garden. Victoria Prentis MP has indicated she would be willing to contact Thames Water in support.

Environment and Recreation

Help is needed in installing bird boxes made by the Brownies and Guides. Some have already been installed.

The chain and lock to the playing field has been replaced and combination details sent to WMC.

The water and electricity serving the old bowls club need to be disconnected.

The fence between the Pocket Park and the resident at 30 Mill Close needs to be replaced. Advice was given that public money should not be spent on replacing privately owned fencing. It was agreed to replace the fence within the Pocket Park boundary if the owner does not cooperate.

Highways and Transport

A trip hazard has been reported at the Grove. PC will write to Stonewater Homes requesting a repair. The request for advice on a crossing for the Grove is to be followed up.

The problem of the faded directional arrows at the traffic lights is being investigated by OCC.

PC Representatives

A new library manager has been appointed. The library will not open until at least April.

Next meeting 17 February at 7.30pm on Skype.

HOLLY TREE CLUB

Scaffolding has gone up on the Holly Tree Club and the roof work is underway. The first phase includes renovating the hall, sorting out the damp problem, installing central heating, renovating the flooring, rewiring and redecorating. Work is expected to take 10–12 weeks. We are excited that work is commencing and are grateful to Deddington Parish Council for supporting a majority of the costs for phase one.

We hope that by the time the DN is available most of our members will have received their Covid-19 vaccination. Remember to continue to wear masks and keep a safe distance from others. The roll-out of the vaccine is a step forward to returning us to normality and of course for us being able to welcome you all back to the Holly Tree Club.

We welcome Clive Snashall as our new treasurer. He has been on the committee settling in as Hugh Blythe has been handing over the role. We're very grateful to Hugh for looking after the accounts, alongside his usual role managing hall bookings, and we have every confidence Clive will keep us in good order too.

Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair
info@TheHollyTreeClub.org

BRILLIANT BUGS

Brilliant Bugs is a set of stamps issued in October 2020 to shine a light on important pollinators that are often overlooked. The six have been chosen with help from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Oxfordshire, and were created by artist Richard Lewington, brother of Linda Lewington who lives in Deddington.

The stamps depict the following:

Common Carder Bee

Of the 24 species of bumblebee found in Britain only seven are relatively widespread and common. This is

one of these. The ginger bumblebee can be seen in a variety of habitats including gardens. In the spring the bumblebee emerges from her solitary underground winter residence and seeks nectar. Then she looks for a nest site to establish her colony which she provisions with pollen and wax.

Longhorn Beetle

The wasp-mimicking longhorn beetle is a common visitor to hawthorn flowers throughout the summer. Although this species has a lifespan of several years, the adults live for only two to four weeks. The long-lived larvae feed in the decaying wood of trees such as birch before pupating and emerging as the stunning black-and-yellow adult beetles with long antennae.

Marmalade Hoverfly

This is frequently seen across Britain where there are more than 280 hoverfly species. They favour flat-topped flowers on which to land and feed on nectar. It

is commonly seen in gardens and is an important pollinator of crops such as oilseed rape. The maggot-like larvae, thought to mimic bird droppings are voracious aphid predators, devouring colonies of these pests in gardens and farmland.

Painted Lady Butterfly

This butterfly travels vast distances from North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia before arriving in Britain. They can be found as far north as Shetland and are one of very few butterflies to migrate to Iceland. Although those

that migrate to Britain do not survive to return south, some breed here in the summer.

Elephant Hawk Moth

Over 2,500 species of moth have been recorded in Britain. The hawk moth family contains some of the largest and most striking of our native moths. The elephant hawk moth is particularly colourful with pink and green wings spanning 45-60mm. Honeysuckle is a favoured source of nectar. The caterpillar of this moth resembles the trunk of an elephant and rosebay willowherb is an important food plant for the caterpillars.

Ruby-tailed Wasp

This iridescent wasp is a so-called cuckoo wasp which feeds on nectar from flowers such as angelica; the young larvae consume the eggs and larvae of other insect species. The female lays her eggs in the nests of other solitary wasp species, usually mason wasps, so that the emerging larvae have a plentiful food supply.



DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope you are all as well as possible in these extremely difficult times and circumstances.

We are of course open to some of our pupils whose parents are key workers. We are delighted to be able to have these children with us in school. But most of our children are working hard and learning remotely at home, and are now able to see each other periodically when talking and working with their class teachers and teaching assistants. We were unable to do this during the first lockdown so it is wonderful to be able to do it now.



The children remain in their bubbles as last term and they are very good at following all social distancing measures and using gel on their hands regularly throughout the school day.

We are lucky to have such great families and pupils. We would like to thank them all for their continuous support with school and home learning, during the current situation.

We send you our very best wishes. Please take good care of yourselves over the coming weeks of continued lockdown.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

For the foreseeable future, services from the Deddington Benefice will only be available online from the Deddington Church website. We have taken this decision because of the high level of Covid infections in the area, and we want all members of our congregations to remain as safe as possible.

However, Deddington church will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9.15am to 5.00pm, on Wednesday from 10.45am to 5.00pm and on Sunday from 11.45am to 5.00pm for individual prayer. Regrettably the toilets will remain closed until further notice. Please see the church website www.deddingtonchurch.org for updates or our FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion

February services online

Sun 7	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 14	9.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
21	10.30am	Holy Communion
28	10.30am	Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Funerals

30 November	Wolfgang Alt
3 December	Susan Beales
9 December	Anthony Collier
16 December	Andrew Willis
21 December	Joan Moore

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (01869 338367) or Meriel Flux (01869 338901).

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.



JOB VACANCY: TRAINEE BAKERY ASSISTANT/BAKER DEDDINGTON

Our team is growing so we are looking for a motivated person to join us. The right candidate needs to have a willingness to learn and work hard. Relevant experience is not necessary. While we have mechanical mixers, all other aspects of this position are manual, which is very satisfying but very hard work!

We are looking for someone with a friendly personality who is happy to work as part of a team. You need to be punctual, flexible, reliable and an early riser — the baking day starts at 5am. You will be required to:

- Assist with all aspects of production — weighing out, shaping and baking.
- Wrap and pack our products for wholesale and retail.
- Keep the kitchen and equipment clean and tidy at all times and maintain high food safety and hygiene standards.

This is an entry level position and is an excellent opportunity to learn and progress. If you are keen to join the bakery industry, please send an email to Tanya@knifeandforkbakery.co.uk with a copy of your CV and a covering letter to tell us a bit about yourself and why you would like to join our team.

This could be one full-time or two part-time positions

Do have a look at who we are at:
www.knifeandforkbakery.co.uk or Insta: [bakerybyknifeandfork](https://www.instagram.com/bakerybyknifeandfork)

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/deddingtononline and Twitter @DeddiOnLine

FROM THE FIRE STATION

This was certainly a bonkers month, with regulation and tier changes, the wrong types of masks and the right type of sanitiser. Sometimes you do not know if you are coming or going, but you do the best you can. It has been busy for us this month with a total of 19 shouts encompassing alarms, rescues, fires and standbys.

However, the day that sticks most in the mind is Wednesday 23 December – floodgate.

I was not even on call, but a short crew alert allowed me to sign on and be picked up to our first call at Somerton. Changing in the back of the pump proved challenging, as did getting the right kit on whilst on a blue light run. Blocked road drains and volume of water was causing water to enter several properties. Residents were busy diverting water, with Deddington unblocking all they could. Back to the station for no more than five minutes and a call to standby at Witney came in. A



full crew of Chris and Ben Fenemore, Adam Franklin, Emma Flint and James Greenwood arrived in Witney to be greeted by multiple flooded roads and fields.

Straightaway, we were called to pump out flooded buildings in Combe, with water entering the kitchen and lounge of a residential property from a flooded road. We quickly employed our small 'pondy pump' and generator – a small pond filter pump that can suck water out quickly and efficiently, working in as little as half an inch of water. Some of the crew were mopping and brushing out the water, whilst others inspected drains and removed flag stones to create an exit channel for the water.

We were using a loan fire engine, as ours was in for service, and unfortunately the MDT, our main link with control and sat nav, decided to go down, so we used the old-fashioned radio communications and utilised our mobiles to find callout addresses as we were unfamiliar with the area. More flooded roads meant we had to do three sides of a square to get back to Witney, finding ourselves in Fawler, totally flooded,

and a house with living accommodation again under water. After closing the road, we brought out the pumps and brushes and pumped out as much as we could, before setting up the resident's own pump to continue once we had left.

Straightaway, we were called to Crawley to aid Eynsham pumping out a residence. Ultimately, we were not required so tried to make our way back to Witney fire station, but closed roads and diversions caused us to pick up a call to Ascott-Under-Wychwood, to a flooded house with a disabled resident. Water was flooding up from the shower drain and bringing in raw sewage. With the residents upstairs, the pondy pump proved invaluable,

as we were able to seal it to the shower drain and remove the water and sewage mix immediately. In conjunction with this, the light portable pump was employed to pump out the drains to lower the water level. Both pumps were then shut off and the shower sealed off

with a clay slab, usually used to seal drains in an environmental incident. During all this, we helped the resident who had fallen over and become trapped in a room of the house.

We had now been on the go for over ten and a half hours straight and had survived on half a box of mince pies and chocolate biscuits. Fatigue was setting in, so back to Deddington we went, with Andy, Stan, Nicky and Adrian waiting as the best relief crew ever. We were warmly greeted with fresh cups of tea, sandwiches, crisps and Mars bars – thanks all. No sooner had we cleared our kit and rubbish from the truck than the bells went down and the second crew was out to Fritwell to deal with further flooding and then off to Chipping Norton – eventually getting back at 2.00am.

So, not your average day by any means, but thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile, despite being soaked ... Happy New Year everyone!

James Greenwood FFd
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKET

This year marks Deddington farmers' market's twentieth anniversary and, circumstances willing, we hope to celebrate with you in September. We are discussing ideas now and, if you have a suggestion, we would love to hear from you.

We are sorry not to have seen you in January and, at the time of writing, it is unlikely the market will be back in February either. Several people expressed surprise at our decision not to open in January, given most stallholders sell essential goods. However, the last two markets of 2020 saw an increased footfall which, in normal times, would be fantastic. Many people came from outside the area, some travelling an hour or so, as it was a legitimate journey. As someone said, 'What else can you do for fun at the moment?' We felt our small community did not need an influx of people at this fragile time, so we are trying to do our bit to protect your health and safety.



This year also sees a farewell to Ian Willox who has shared his passion for food and cooking with us for seven years. We'd like to thank Ian for the range of recipes we have enjoyed. We know his column will be missed by many.

Jenny Snashall takes over as the market scribe next month. You may recognise her from her time on the market information desk with Christine Blythe. Jenny will be profiling the market stallholders, bringing you the

background to the produce you buy at the market.

If you are an avid BBC fan you might have seen The Farmers' Country Showdown on 5 January which featured three generations of the Styan family, regular stallholders at our market and others. It's a good watch which you can catch on iPlayer or here www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000qzw7. Stay Safe.

Tei Williams

marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Tales from the Pump

An empty pub with no one to moan about is no place for a grumpy landlord so I was relieved to hear the knock on the pub door the other day. 'We are closed – go away', I shouted at the door but the knock came again – even louder. I drew back the bolts and opened the door to a strange looking bloke, portly, big beard, rheumy blue eyes and wearing a coarse blue apron with a big pocket. 'I want a gill of ale' he says. 'We are closed. Don't you read the news?' says I. 'Never used to close in my day', says old beardy, 'morning, noon and night my serving wench Lucy always ready to serve a gill of ale for a ha'penny or two'. The pricing was a bit of a clue here, so I guessed I was being visited by a ghostly grumpy landlord from long ago. 'Who was king when you were here?' I asked. 'That was good old Charlie – he put things right after that rascal Ollie Cromwell – now where's my ale?'

So I explained about the pandemic and all the alehouses having to shut by government decree as I poured him a bottle of beer. He eyed the sparkling pint of UBU suspiciously. I explained that UBU was brewed



near Stratford-upon-Avon by a young lad whose father, who had been hoping the boy would enter academia, called him a Useless Bloody Urchin, so he called his first beer UBU. 'Just called our ale "ale"', he said. 'Mind you we had a good scribbler up in Stratford – unfortunately he popped his clogs before he could sort out old Ollie Cromwell.'

Getting back to the pandemic, he said, 'Bit like the plague then – no chance of shutting the alehouses in my day – too many of 'em, probably around forty here in Deddington, some of them just labourers' cottages serving home-brew. No, if a house showed signs of the plague it was boarded up and the occupants sent to the Pest House just down Adderbury Hill.' I asked, 'How did they get food and drink?' 'Ah well', he said, 'I would send Lucy down with flasks of ale and vittles to deliver to the house – they left money outside and she would leave the drink and food. They called her DeliverLoo.' 'I'm off now.' he said 'You can keep that stuff and I'm not giving you a farthing let alone a ha'penny – not enough body in it for me'.

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

Ho, what a mess and no, I don't mean the aftermath of the recent flooding which has left the farm very wet and our spring cropping plans needing a rethink. The ewes are now in the lambing barns and will soon be on the job, but just what the prospects for the sheep flock are, given the latest ramblings of the green brigade remain to be worked out.

Home Farm is a tenanted mixed farm with arable and livestock and any number of environmental schemes (public money for public goods). The land put into these schemes is taken out of cropping to help environmental preservation of the Cherwell valley. The farm is regularly surveyed by the various environmental groups and, to date, we have 41 species of bird, 16 species of butterfly and 361 species of moth, a good population of badgers and other farmland mammals. We get paid for the environmental strips but the difficulty is that two-thirds of the payment goes to the landlord in rent, leaving very little to fulfil the requirements of the scheme, so with the change in regulations (Brexit) we may have to scrap the schemes and put the plough in. End of rant.

With lambing just around the corner, I am back on night patrol with my ever-present companion, Otter, a young black labrador gun dog who is coming on well with his gun work, but has yet to learn that if you hunt out a patch of stinging nettles you are going to get stung.

We are now the proud owners of a round baler, the idea being to rearrange the sheep barns and put the sheep flock on to round bale silage and straw to simplify the winter feeding and bedding. Like me, the old conventional baler is now redundant, although I



am assured that there will be a need for small bales for the horses and local pet trade.

With February being the third month of winter, spring can't be far behind but, as I sit at the keyboard to put this together, we are still waiting for the start of winter. We have had no frost of any consequence and, to date, no snow to rebuild the groundwater table for the summer as most of the rain in recent months is now sloshing around the channel which is probably the best place for it, given what is washed out of our defunct foul water systems. If you

don't believe me, go for a short walk to the river on your permitted daily exercise and see just what is hung up in the vegetation. It's not a very savoury subject to think about in these days of pandemic but one that will affect us all given time.

The bees have had a difficult time with no real weather to send them into hibernation and have been on the wing most days with very little to bring home to replace used up winter feed stocks, so it's out with the extra feed to keep them going. The open winter has also kept the badger population active and we have had a number of hives trashed by hungry badgers but, at the age of 70 plus, I can no longer continually rebuild and restock trashed hives so the decision has been taken to reduce the number of hives to produce enough honey for the farm shop. These hives will be kept on platforms well off the ground out of the badgers' way, but it will mean that the only place you can get Home Farm honey is the Home Farm shop.

George Fenemore
01869 338203

Deddington Health Centre

Covid Vaccination Programme **Updated 7 January 2021**

Our Covid vaccination programme has started and we are working with other local practices in our Primary Care Network to deliver the vaccinations in order of government priority groups as listed below. We are currently offering appointments for first Covid vaccinations to the first two groups on the priority list.

We will contact you as soon as we can. Please don't contact us either to speak to us about a second vaccine or find out when you are likely to be called. We are only offering appointments for first vaccinations at the moment. We will contact you as soon as you become eligible and we have vaccine to offer.

We strongly advise that, if you are contacted and offered an appointment for a vaccination, you book the appointment being offered. We would advise you not to wait to see if you are offered it at a different centre or for a specific type of vaccine. If you do not book an

appointment when we contact you, we will be unable to confirm when we will next be able to offer you an appointment to have your Covid vaccination.

Patients will be contacted when we are in a position to offer appointments to their cohort and will be required to attend for their vaccine at Chipping Norton Health Centre.

Older adults resident in a care home and care home workers – Ongoing

All those 80+ years of age and Health and Social Care Workers – Ongoing

All those 75+ years of age

All those 70+ years of age

All those 65+ years of age

High-risk adults under 65 years of age

Moderate-risk adults under 65 years of age

All those 60+ years of age

All those 55+ years of age

All those 50 years of age and over

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Insurrection and Toe Fungus

There are things in America that I never realised existed until got here: toenail fungus; pink eye; and now insurrection. I had to look it up.

I was looking forward to a Trump-free postcard; in fact a Trump-free life would be great. But, like the proverbial bad smell, he is refusing to go. The country I live in is proving itself no better than a banana republic. Following the election, 35% of the population believed, despite no evidence, that Biden 'stole the vote'. Trump's enablers won one legal challenge and lost more than sixty. One judge, appointed by Trump, said their case was 'rife with speculation and guesswork.'

Yet still the President sulks and calls for revolution. And then told his supporters to march on Congress and everything changed. The fact the police were not there to defend the politicians is undoubtedly suspicious, particularly since the Black Lives Matters marches of similar size were met with extreme force. But America has taken this invasion of their centre of government very seriously and Trump leaves office with an historically low approval rating. 'How could we have known?' was a common refrain. Um ...

Following the election, we began to relax again and I decided to test out the American healthcare system and get myself upgraded. It takes a degree of madness to take this decision in times of Covid but this month I have two cataract operations and a smart bloke is going to poke around the meniscus in my knee.

We pay around \$2,300 per month for health insurance for our family. Taking out the extra amount I paid



for multi-focal lenses, these three operations will cost me over \$4,000. But the service level is unbelievable. I sat in the prep room for the first operation and the nurse asked if I would like a warm blanket – and then got me one – from an oven. But the paperwork is staggering: for the knee surgery I spent 15 minutes filling in the documentation online, but when I arrived there were

another six forms to sign. When the doctor signed my knee, I thought he was joining in with the form filling fun but apparently this is a thing here.

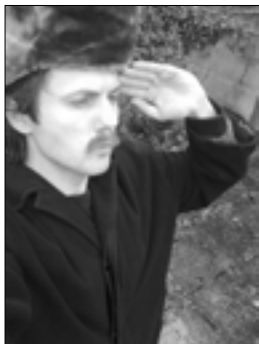
America is still split on COVID precautions. We are very careful and haven't been to a bar or restaurant since March, but I guess half the population is trying to pretend it isn't happening, with fatal results. They have just reopened the bars and restaurants and gyms around us at partial capacity. I can't help feeling disaster is around the corner.

With Trump unable to use his Twitter foghorn, it is falling to his Secretary of State to brag about the state of the country. Some of his hashtags this month have been #LeadingFromTheFront #SoMuchWinning #AmericansFirst #PeaceThruStrength and #swagger. You get the drift. Even in a time of crisis, focus on self, be arrogant, and never learn. Many see the Trumpist white supremacists and militia as patriots. You and I would call them terrorists. It's a difficult time to love America, even for me.

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



Before this current era of pestilence began, I was at the east end of the village one summer evening just before the harvest (so the crops were quite high), about to reach the gate at the perimeter of the field at the Earls Lane turn. I was lost in my thoughts but stopped in my tracks on seeing a large, lolling badger which squeezed through the

gate ahead and started galloping in my direction.

I'd heard stories of how much damage a raging badger can do with its claws and teeth, so I stayed still to avoid making myself a threat. Nevertheless, the big lump got about ten yards from me when it must have spotted my ankles and looked up in panic, before rapidly u-turning and galloping back from whence it came. It reminded me of my parents' old refrain about

not being bothered by insects or spiders because 'They're far more scared of you than you are of them.'

It seems as though there is a minority of people who apply this mindset to the current state of affairs: 'The virus is more scared of us than we are of it.' Either that or the way people process and deal with terrorist acts: 'If we change our way of life through fear then they will have won.' These states of mind make sense in terms of scared people reaching for their established methods of processing fear, but neither is appropriate for a virus which feels nothing and isn't affected by how you feel about it. In many ways, the current way of life we are enduring feels like a fictional social experiment: 'How much would you sacrifice, if you knew it could save a stranger?' We will certainly understand a lot more about ourselves as individuals and as a collective when we reach the other side of this struggle.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

IN A WORD OR TWO

Are you prone to mutter or even shout at the television or radio? Do absurd plots, bad acting, or scenes that are outrageous or shocking have you exclaiming loudly? The answer is probably 'yes'.

What about language? Not the four-lettered variety but the misuse of language. Someone I know arguably corrects aloud presenters or actors when they say 'different to' instead of 'different from'.

In the pre-Covid age the use of 'fewer' when 'less' is meant (or vice versa) was a minor blip on the horizon of awareness. Now subject to the sensory deprivation of lockdown I might mutter or, ever so occasionally, shout 'fewer than, not 'less than', you idiot'.

There will be many others who react similarly confronted by their own *bêtes noires*. It is no consolation to be told that language is constantly changing, that Shakespearean English is different from that of today, nor that we ought to make efforts to defend our language as the French do.

Mass education and the printing presses ensured that spelling and grammar became fairly stable. Yet the pressures of change on British English are now greater than ever. Perhaps the greatest is American cultural imperialism: Hollywood films, television, pop music. To those can be added Apple, Microsoft and social media led by Facebook and Twitter. Emails strip out formality and 'Hi' becomes the starter of most of them. Phone messaging introduced txt and vowels became endangered. Then came predictive text that gave us such gems as 'business defecate' for 'business deficit'. Spell-checkers are dominated by US English that turn grey into gray.

The need to check what you have written has to be allied to at least a working knowledge of English. The star sports writer whose story referred in his intro to a 'bazaar incident' complained the spellchecker didn't say it was wrong. Bizarre indeed. The same excuse was proffered by a male Fleet Street columnist who wrote of wanting to 'basque in the sun'. No transgender excuse was offered.

None of that addresses the destructive erosion of meaning induced by the attack on the barrier between reality and fantasy of Trumpian and QAnon distortions.

More mundanely and back to reasons for engaging in a rant at your television, whether at vocal or written infractions. Are there battles already lost? Is 'whom' destined to be forever 'who'? Is 'on a daily basis' to be used 'daily'?

Then we have 'impacting', which surely ought to have something to do with wisdom teeth but seems to have emerged unnecessarily out of the grey area many find between 'affecting' and 'effecting', just as 'escalating' emerged as a grand sounding alternative to growing.

Mutterings and something louder can also be elicited by the written word. Once newsprint and paper prices and shortages made every word count. Today there is laxity where once was discipline and brevity. 'Before' has become 'prior to'. Every threat has become an existential threat, but can the writers explain the difference? Has American English eroded the difference between practice and practise to the point where only practise will survive?

Closer to home, the *Banbury Guardian* has, among other sins, the despairing habit of playing fast and loose with commas. Particularly disconcerting is not knowing when clauses require a comma at the end. Too many addresses finish without a final comma, making a place the subject of what follows.

As to apostrophes, it's a subject in itself that catches out even the alleged best of us. One former colleague argued that it should be a nurses's home because it was St James's Palace. A discussion over the difference between a nurse's home and a nurses' home did nothing to dent the certainty of someone who felt he trumped the argument because he had a first class honours degree from Cambridge.

So what rattles your cage? Let the *Deddington News* editors know what irritates you, your pet hate. Which is a reminder: why is 'focused' so often wrongly spelled 'focussed'? Nitpicking? Perhaps. But as another former colleague when challenged used to say, with fragrant disregard of any political correctness: 'Better a pedant than a pederast.' Spellcheckers, please note the difference.

John Price

Friends of the Castle Grounds

The overhanging branches between the two gates have now been cut back, on the advice of the fire service to prevent damage to emergency vehicles that might have to attend the site. Castle Grounds is still very wet and muddy especially the moat area so take care when walking in there.

Please take your rubbish home with you as the bins get full very quickly. This will help up keep the site clean and tidy.

As we are once again in lockdown why not come and use the Castle Grounds for your daily exercise. The site is a spectacular and spacious area even on some of these dark and dull days.

Roll on spring and the lighter days.

Carol Garrett

cgarrett@btinternet.com

LETTERS

FROM WENDY BURROWS,
DEDDINGTON

Congratulations on the December issue with its lovely cover and interesting content.

How good to be reminded of the wonderful Deddington character, John Cheney, with one of his poems. John was a talented performer in the community concerts and an enthusiastic supporter of these annual events. In the Parish Show of 2013, the year of his death, the limerick class was won by Molly Neild, who wrote this tribute:

A man from our village has gone
And a light has switched out, whereupon
His rhyming and singing
Will elsewhere be ringing
And the resonance goes on and on.

FROM PAT BRITAIN, BUCKINGHAM

I was overwhelmed with the retirement gifts given to



Please address all letters to:
JILL CHEESEMAN
37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON
letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

me by the *Deddington News* team last month as I stood down from my responsibility for collating and distribution. Thank you very much but I will be back to help with collating when we are 'normal'. In company with all members of the team, I miss the ten days of fellowship each year. I will resume the Friday Katharine House coffee mornings and Derek and I will be on refreshment duty on market days.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of *DN*, a very worthwhile asset to a wonderful village. Stay safe.

FROM DAVID ROGERS,
DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

I'd like to express my thanks to the hardy individual who chose to spend the afternoon of New Year's Day litter picking on the A4260 south of Deddington.

A Remembrance Sunday to Forget in Wigan

In 1978 I had the privilege of being the commanding officer of Her Majesty's newly built nuclear submarine, *HMS Sceptre*. In those far-off days we had sufficient boats (a submarine is always a boat) and time to visit a UK home port once or twice a year. The first visit we were offered was to Wigan because we had adopted the Wigan Sea Cadets as our sponsored youth charity. I knew there was a pier (remember George Orwell's book *The Road to Wigan Pier?*) but I also knew it was on an inland canal and our draught of some 28ft and 5,000 tons would make reaching it difficult. The nearest suitable naval pier was in Liverpool so we berthed there, left a reduced crew on board (not at all happy) and the rest of us travelled by coach to be accommodated for five days in B&Bs and hotels provided free by a grateful and extremely hospitable Wigan Town Council. Entertainment (mainly liquid) was round the clock and largely free, courtesy of the townsfolk who had never been visited by anything naval before, never mind 75 nuclear submariners.

The climax of the visit was for my ships company to lead the Remembrance Sunday Parade. I was invited to take the salute in full uniform plus sword and medals in company with the Mayor in his chain and robes. My wife, who had been invited for the day, wore a suitably smart outfit with large brimmed hat and gloves as did the Mayor's wife.

Submariners are not very good at marching and my crew had had four days of near continuous, round-the-clock, entertainment to cope with; something they

had managed with great enthusiasm. I was therefore concerned that, when it came to parading past the saluting station at the Town Hall steps, they might look a bit ragged. I took up position with not a little anxiety.

As the sound of the Sea Cadet band leading the Parade could be heard, it started to rain, heavily. My uniform was resistant to the odd downpour but the Mayor's fur robe and the ladies' outfits much less so. The Mayor summed up the situation and quickly moved the saluting party to a nearby bus shelter. As the head of the Parade entered the square, a couple of buses stopped right in front of us and remained there while the parade marched past hidden behind them. The somewhat bemused and amused passengers received my smart salute gracefully. I was later told that it was probably just as well I did not witness my ships company marching as only a few managed to be in step.

There is a postscript to the story. On return to Liverpool to proceed back to our base, the weather had deteriorated to such an extent it was too rough to transfer the harbour pilot to his boat once we were in open water. So he had to experience a dived passage down the Irish Sea and up the Channel to Plymouth. He was not a happy person because the last Liverpool pilot to dive in a submarine had been lost, along with all hands, when *HMS Thetis* sank in Liverpool Bay in 1939.

Rob Forsyth

Our Childhood Games

Before the days when tele came
The children played at their own game
Down the road with hoop and guide
They ran together side by side.

And then there was the hoop and top
Just give a whack, my, it did hop
Many a child had the cane
For breaking mother's window pane.

Conker season came quite late
To make them hard we did them bake
Hanging from a piece of twine
What number is she? She's a nine.

Marble time is here again
Played down the gutter, mind the drain
Or played along the garden path
And in the winter on the hearth.

Hopscotch square marked on playground
With stone that's flat and not too round
Hop along from square to square
Plaits in ribbons bob in the air.

Boys with elastic catapult
Shoots at the cat or frightens colt,
Girls with rope that's flying round
Scatters dust up from the ground.

With stones of five placed in your hand
How many on the back would stand?
When tossed into the air with height
How much these games they did excite.

Queenie! Queenie! who has got the ball?
You could hear the children call
And Mr Wolf was asked the time
But would not chase till dinner time.

Two balls were thrown against the wall
Just keep them going till one did fall
With smiling faces full of glee
I think this game was called ten'see

Oh what a sight before our eyes
To hear their shouts and hear their cries
Enjoying their own special fun
My, they could shout and they could run.

Don Walker



Mallams
1788

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

I'm sure you will all be surprised to find there is a college in Clifton but there is. This is easy to understand if you know a college is the collective noun for doctors and there is a single street in Lower Larkrise that now boasts three, following Matt being awarded his PhD from Durham University in November – very well done to him and his supportive family. Oh, we are so proud to see the first driver of the community go-kart now all doctored up ... blimey, we're getting old.

We recently (well, sort of recent due to copy space) had a bit of Tracy Island action where Mark came across the victim of a mountain bike accident between Castle Farm and Gravel Hill. He used the what3words app when contacting the emergency services who were able to attend promptly and get the casualty off for treatment for two broken wrists. If you haven't done already, you should download this app to get three words to uniquely describe any location in the UK and save yourself the embarrassment of not being able to describe to a stranger exactly where you are when standing somewhere you have stood for years – especially if you don't normally get out very much. I'm writing this from plunger.unfit.promoted and Candelord church office is at café.expiring.lamplight. Get the app before it's too late.

Of course, the Santas were happy to get out again – and they have been multiplying. Twenty-seven was the last count this correspondent made. I bumped into the Adderbury Flyers Cycling Club who made a point of finding them all and were full of praise. Sadly, the Santa with the gift of vaccine was debagged one evening. Next day there he was with trousers round his ankles and wedding tackle nowhere to be seen. Fortunately, his keeper was able to restore his modesty fairly quickly and he survived the rest of the season unmolested.

This correspondent is delighted to see a few houses dedicated to keeping up our spirits with their lights still on their houses to keep that magical look going for a while longer. It was Blue Monday a couple of weeks ago (you know – that day invented by the holiday industry to get us booking) and these lights certainly helped.

These times are sadly quiet but the joy of popping out for a local walk and bumping in to all but one of your neighbours was certainly a highlight.

Any news, you know what to do.

Martin Bryce

martinbryce@gmail.com

Friends of Daeda's Wood

Daeda's Wood committee members are pleased that the Wood is still a popular venue to visit in the winter. The heavy rains and subsequent flooding of the river Swere have made it risky for unaccompanied children to visit. However, the gravelled path remains navigable especially by wheelchair users.

Sadly some selfish horse riders are still treating the paths through the Wood as bridleways causing deep churning and slippery underfoot conditions.

Last year the Friends were fortunate to have a Duke of Edinburgh Silver award nominee who was seeking a placement of an environmental nature. Whilst she was not a Woodland Trust volunteer, she gained significant experience and knowledge by shadowing me and even contributing an article to the *Deddington News* at some point.

I would be willing to help other young people in a similar way if they or their parents would like to contact me at the email address below.

All best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Annette Murphy, Chair
murphyannette74@gmail.com

DL History Corner deddingtonhistory.uk

Local Newspaper Articles 1914–17

There are now 62 archived pages at <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/worldwars/wwinewspaperarticles>, containing details of Deddington men killed, missing in action, wounded or decorated for bravery in WWI.

A page from 27 September 1917 refers to Private Jackman, Royal Fusiliers, missing in action and presumed killed. It says his parents lived on New Street. Despite extensive searches, I can find no reference to him or his parents in Deddington census or on any WWI military websites. If anyone knows anything about the family, could you please contact me?

Another page refers to a POW camp in Earls Lane from which three escaped prisoners were caught with their bags of stolen potatoes by the parish policeman. There are articles about the war memorial, one of which hints at the controversy surrounding its location and funding.

They are worth browsing for other items, such as a 1919 advertorial in *The Banbury Advertiser* promoting 'Dr Williams' Pink Pills' for combating the long term effects of Spanish 'flu, which sound very like 'long Covid'. This is also accessible from the Home Page via a link to 'Plagues & Pestilence'.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

‘DIRTY, DRUNKEN DEDDINGTON’?

If you saw Neil Skinner’s pic of the Deddington bottle banks at the end of December, you might have wondered about where ‘Dirty Drunken Deddington’ comes from. It’s part of an old rhyme, quoted in the *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, no less:

*Aynho on the hill
Clifton in the clay
Dirty, drunken Deddington
And Hempton high way*

I’ve no idea of the origins of the rhyme, but it’s interesting to look at what’s behind the moniker. Why were we called that?

Pubs have always been an essential part of English village life and Deddington is no exception. Given we’re on the main road joining Banbury and Oxford, there were travellers who needed overnight accommodation as well as food and drink, giving rise to coaching inns and lodging houses.

In the 1808 parish map only three inns were

identified: Queen’s/King’s Arms at the north end of the Market Place, the Horse-shoes in Horsefair and the Crown & Tuns in New Street, all coaching inns. There were also

numerous beer and lodging houses.

Mary Vane Turner’s *The Story of Deddington* (1933) listed 15–16 taverns and beer houses, while a leaflet published for the 2000 Millennium Map Group project listed no fewer than 26, past and present. Now we have five, so what happened to some of the others in the intervening years?

The Plough in New Street, with its vaulted cellar, closed in 1927 and was turned into a butcher’s and poulterer’s. In the 1940s the roof of the Exhibition (home of the dustman and scavenger), collapsed and the building was demolished, then rebuilt. Since I came to Deddington nearly 50 years ago we’ve lost the Holcombe and the Russell, joining the others as private houses. Other changes include: the Red Lion renamed Blacksmiths Forge and back to Red Lion. The King’s Arms became the Deddington Arms when the

coat of arms was granted; the Duke of Cumberland’s Head is now more snazzily called the Duke at Clifton; and the Crown & Tuns has morphed into the Pie Pub – very successfully too.

Who can forget landlords, Fred and Val, in the Unicorn, Fred and Edna in the C&T, Graham and Marie France and their spectacular rows, followed by Rob Huntingdon in the Duke? Characters who made their mark on the pubs – and their customers. The pubs were their fiefdoms, they called the shots.

And get this – James Brogden, vicar between 1848 and 1864, pawned the church bell ropes for drink at the Unicorn and the bells couldn’t be rung again until the debt was paid.

What of the ‘dirty’ bit of the old rhyme? The Market Place was ‘an ugly piece of rocky ground’ with a highly polluted town pool in the south-east corner, filled in in 1861, and at that time Philcot(e) Street/Goose Green were ‘dens of iniquity,’ full of prostitution and paupers.

Right up to post WWII, Deddington was desperately poor, as seen in the government film *24 Square Miles*, far from what estate agents now like to call a ‘most desirable village’.

Back to the bottle bank: the coronavirus may have driven us indoors, but it’s clear we still like a tippie. After the horrors of Covid, what will be left? Where to put the world to rights over a sturdy pint or a glass of giggly prosecco? Where to hold Aunt Sally, Quiz Night and the Clifton Book Club? Let’s hope you come back strong – we’ll be there for you.

There are lot of pics of Deddington’s pubs past and present at https://www.deddington.org.uk/gallery/index.php/Pubs_Restaurants and for more information on inns and coaching in Deddington, go to <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/buildings/inns,pubsandlodging-houses> and <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/publishedhistories/mvt/7.innsandcoachingdays>

Mary Robinson
robimary@gmail.com



NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Users of the Hempton to Deddington footpath will be sorry to see Dave Stewart move from Swere Paddock. Dave has manicured the verges with his trusty mower to great effect in recent years, saving users the need to carry a machete though they are frequently needed to make way on the western reaches of the path. It is thought the tribe from Ilbury still survives, lost deep in the undergrowth. Thank you Dave, your labours were appreciated.

On the same theme, thanks to the ad hoc litter collectors thwarting attempts to turn the Deddington–Hempton way into an environmental eyesore.

Whilst winter weather persists, anybody in need of a snow shovel or salt spreader can contact Jonathan Watts on 07818 697752 who can arrange access.

The dog poo fairy still appears to be on furlough, leaving a backlog of unsavoury deposits, part of the more than 1,000 tonnes of the stuff deposited daily in the UK. Along the Hempton Road fourteen dumps were seen on a 50 yard stretch. Now that we are diving on to the grass, social distancing, we are experiencing more antisocial hazards. Most owners clear up after their pets but there are obviously some who could be more considerate. The law and polite comments are having little impact. Please challenge and report abusers and stray dogs to the dog warden. At £100 per dump this may be more effective – if not, perhaps poo cams.

Residents near the head of the Barford Road, and passers-by, were subjected to a rather unsavoury pong early in the New Year. The culprit turned out to be an overflowing foul drain. Thames Water diagnosed the problem as a fatberg blocking the sewer. A large volume of sewage spilled over the fields and had to be cleaned up. Having freed the blockage, we have resumed exporting our waste to Barford. Fats and non-flushable materials should not be disposed of down the drains.

Users of the Hempton–Deddington footpath are able to take advantage of a free shower and facial. However, enjoying this service takes a little planning and some foresight. Firstly, a customer must choose to follow the path following heavy or persistent rainfall. Then they need to arrange to be passing one of an increasing number of locations where water pools around a blocked gully or any of the failing verges and potholes. They must then be lucky enough for two vehicles travelling in opposite directions to contrive to pass this location at the same time as the customer. Having no alternative, save crashing head on, the Hempton bound vehicle will plough through the water resulting in the customer receiving a bracing shower. The water is a little muddy, hence the facial. Those needing a more intense facial treatment will find autumn a good time to take advantage when the local agricultural community undertake their annual attempt to reclaim the highway by laying down a layer of top soil.

Top tip: the Olympic sized pool opposite Snake

Hill Lane provides the best value, being a larger body of water than most. An HGV with 40 foot trailer is preferred, giving a longer pulsing power shower. Customers may be lucky and encounter a vehicle with a driver unaware that their vehicle is about to become amphibious. Most drivers fail to oblige and steer clear. But if you are really lucky, you may come across an obliging driver all too keen to help.

NB Please dress modestly whilst using this facility lest you offend the natives. It's a long run to the church and back with the defibrillator. I'm afraid shower caps, soap, sponge and towel. are not provided.

For those who have already taken their annual shower or have a preference for less public, or perhaps more frequent and reliable ablutions, please beware. Without due care and attention you might experience the service quite inadvertently – as I did.

Thanks to Oxfordshire Highways for maintaining a plentiful supply of suitable bodies of water.

Please forward any news items for the March edition to me.

Stuart Oldham, sj_oldham@btinternet.com

Deddington Environment Network

Lockdown brings its own pressures. Some people have less time, some more, but if you have a moment and are keen to revisit ways to help our planet at a local level you might find some ideas below.

Word is getting out about our refill station at the farmers' market. Thank you to all our customers who have supported us over the last few months. Sales were up 25% at the November market which adds up to lots of plastic waste avoided. If you would like to fill up over lockdown, please contact us at info@deddingtonenvironment.net or via Facebook Messenger to order. We currently stock washing-up liquid, handwash, non-bio laundry liquid, fabric conditioner, window and glass cleaner, all-purpose cleaner and white vinegar. We have a few spare containers but would appreciate any clean, empty ones, plastic or glass with tightly fitting lids. Stefan can deliver in Deddington, Hempton, Clifton and Duns Tew and he can swap your empties for recycled bottles to keep the circulation going.

Dan, at the zero waste shop, Nothing But Footprints, in Banbury, has updated his website <https://www.refillnotlandfill.co.uk>. He has also increased his product range and is happy to deliver free to Deddington on Thursdays.

We would love to hear from you if you have IT expertise to help us with our website or to get involved in any other way. We are local volunteers and sometimes run out of time as our day jobs and lives keep us busy so any help you could give would be welcome.

Nick Smith, Andy Camoenie, Al Kitchen, John O'Brien, Matt Pumfrey, Tammy Marrett, Stefan Watham, Sam Brown, Lucy Pumfrey, Christopher Hall and Fiona Smith



Omne trium perfectum – more commonly known as ‘the rule of three’ principle. It suggests things that come in threes are inherently more humorous, satisfying and effective than any other number of things. Well, you could have fooled me! Three lockdowns, three Windmill closures and only two re-openings to date. Let’s hope that the next Windmill re-opening is indeed the third and final one, that the roll-out of the vaccine brings Covid under control and that all the many and varied activities at the Windmill can once again become part of everybody’s weekly schedule.

In the meantime, an exciting and very welcome development is the installation of two new public electric vehicle (EV) charging points to the rear of the Windmill building – a first in Deddington. We are grateful



Photo: thanks to Bryn Williams

to a local private donor and the parish council for making this possible. The charging network is NewMotion (a member of the Shell group) and by the time this issue of the *DN* is published, both EV charge points should be up and running. Growth in the use of electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids continues unabated and they now account for more than ten per cent of new car sales in the UK. Look out for further announcements on our website and on social media.

Finally, a belated ‘Happy New Year’ to everybody. We really look forward to welcoming you back to the Windmill soon.

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington and District Photographic Society

‘You can always tell you’re with a photographer, they keep banging on about the light,’ says Kieran Metcalfe who gave an excellent presentation about ‘Chasing the Light’. He professes to be a ‘sunburst junkie’ and entertained us with excellent landscape shots featuring New Brighton on the Wirral, Snowdonia and, predominantly, the Peak District. Kieran is a sucker for a sunrise and sunset and is a weather watcher too because it helps in his planning for a destination and a shot. Using apps such as clearoutside.com and the Skyfire app he can estimate the light opportunities for a particular image. Kieran gave members lots of tips and technical details about shooting into the sun, dealing with high contrast scenes, sidelight and shooting after dark. Photographers talk of the ‘golden hour’ and the ‘blue hour’ and Kieran showed great examples of images that reflect these. Recently, due to travel restrictions, he has focused on local trees and woodland capturing some impressive images with mist and fog to enhance the atmosphere. An inspiring evening encouraged members to visit his website www.kieranmetcalfephotography.co.uk where many of his images can be seen.

Members were treated to a feast for the eyes after the festive break; ‘The Magic of Macro’ delivered by Colleen Slater, ARPS, a Brighton based full-time photographer and lecturer. Lockdown has many downsides but being able to talk to experts and enthusiasts from around the country has inspired our photography. Macro is the art of extreme close-up photography, capturing minute detail within an image. Colleen had lots of tips and ideas about equipment and the way her images were composed and lit. Her body of work is mainly focused on insects, plants and flowers, but recently she has branched out into photographing things she finds on Brighton beach. All her images are beautifully composed, with exquisite colours and a gentle feeling of shape that she tries to simplify as much as possible. Colleen endures for her art; spending many hours in fields or damp bogs, capturing a shot of a grasshopper or butterfly that she makes look effortless. I am sure it is not without many rejected shots relegated to the delete bin. Do explore her website where the images we saw are displayed: www.colleenslaterphotography.co.uk.

The Society is always hoping to encourage new members of different skill and experience levels. You do not need lots of fancy equipment, some of the best images are taken on phones. We wish to promote a fun and friendly atmosphere, so if you are thinking of a new hobby give us a try.

Our next Zoom meeting is on Wednesday 3 February at 7.30pm. You are welcome to join us. Details of who to contact for access are on our website.

Anne Hunsley

www.addphoto.co.uk

Continued on p17

CALLING ALL CLUBS Continued from p16

Royal British Legion

In the absence of an AGM in 2020 the committee has kindly agreed to carry on for another year and we welcome Lt Col Harry Hawkins as a new committee member.

We were not allowed to carry out Poppy Week street collections in last November; nonetheless we still managed to raise a respectable £3,430, £1,438 less than last year. In future the RBL requires that Remembrance Sunday events must be approved, insured and marshalled by a civic body. The PC has kindly agreed to act as ours. However, the parade will still be organised and commanded by the Branch.

We are delighted that the path from Castle Street to the churchyard has been hard surfaced right up to the churchyard gate thanks to the generosity of Richard Spencer.

Membership remains steady at 60. New members are very welcome and their modest £17 annual subscriptions will help to fill this year's fundraising black hole. It is very easy to join online. The membership secretary is available on email membershipsecretary-rbl0746@gmail.com if you have any questions, one of which will be 'What is your local branch number?' Answer: RBL 0746.

Although there is reason to hope life will improve, there are still tough days ahead. If you are aware of any members or their families who could do with some help, please contact me.

Rob Forsyth, Chairman
01869 338384
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

We wish everyone a very healthy and happy New Year. Fingers crossed we can meet in the not too distant future and stretch our vocal cords again safely. Our top priority this year is to seek out a new choir leader to take over from Cat who sadly has decided to move out of the area.

We are looking for an engaging and enthusiastic vocal leader to take over conducting and musical direction. Is there anyone who would be interested or do you know someone who might be?

Local Vocals is an open access choir with no auditions and no requirement for singers to read music. We sing unaccompanied in three-part harmony (and occasionally in four), with all songs taught by ear. The choir leader is responsible for planning contemporary songs for each term (some chosen by choir members) and organising performance opportunities. The choir is run by a volunteer committee which takes care of everything else. To find out more about our choir and contact us, please go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve

Book Group

Our latest book was *Unless* by the Canadian author, Carol Shields.

Reeta Winters has led a comfortable and happy life so far, successfully juggling family commitments with her career as a recognised translator and novelist. The calm is shattered when her eldest daughter, Norah, suddenly decides to drop out of everything to sit and beg on a Toronto street with a sign reading 'Goodness' round her neck. The situation affects all the family in different ways but also acts as a catalyst for Reeta's growing belief that Norah's withdrawal is due to a realisation that society does not value women's contribution as much as men's.

The book drew a mixed response from our group. There were some criticisms of too much introspection, emphasis on feminist theory and exposition of the writing process. On the other hand, there was praise for the quality of writing, well-drawn family relationships and occasional wryly humorous descriptions. Perhaps one of the most important factors for us all was whether or not we had found the situation and characters engaging.

Our next book is *Hons and Rebels* by Jessica Mitford. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Deddington Bookworms

We have continued to meet via Zoom once a month, providing much needed light relief.

Over the last couple of months we have read and discussed *Bookworm: A Memoir of Childhood Reading* by Lucy Mangan and *Perfect People* by Peter James.

They are two very different books; *A Memoir of Childhood Reading* takes the reader through her reading journey. It was not enjoyed by all Bookworms but generally felt to be a nice book to dip into and remember those long lost days of sitting, undisturbed, for hours with your nose stuck in a book. It was also a good reminder of books read.

In contrast, *Perfect People* is a compelling and thought-provoking thriller. The story follows John and Naomi Klaesson who are grieving the death of their four-year old son from a rare genetic disorder. They desperately want another child, but when they find out they are both carriers of a rogue gene, they realise the odds of their next child contracting the disease are high. Then they hear about geneticist Doctor Dettore. Can his methods spare them the heartache of losing another child?

Although a page turner, we thought the book was quite futuristic in parts, making it hard to read at times. Worth a read though.

Bookworms, Deddington Library

SPORT

Deddington Cricket Club

Our thoughts are already turning to a new cricket season. Lockdowns aside, the Club hopes that a complete season will be possible this year. There is plenty to be positive about.

New League

Deddington's adult teams will be playing in an expanded Cherwell Cricket League which has absorbed the Oxfordshire Cricket Association teams into a single structure for the County, now comprising some 180 teams across 84 Clubs. A full fixture list of 18 games per team is planned. Our successful Women's team will also be playing in a restructured Home Counties League and have both Super 8 and limited over competitions planned for them.

AGM

The Club AGM was held on 15 January followed by an enjoyable quiz, made more fun through support from Chadlington Brewery, which delivered a selection of their fine ales with tasting notes to the homes of participants. Many thanks to Joe Roberts, David Webb and Georgia Adams for setting the questions. Details of decisions made at the AGM will be on the Club website, www.deddingtoncricket.co.uk.

Pre-season

Our pre-season plans are focused on using the outdoor nets during April. Watch out for updates. Whether you are new to cricket or want to return, please contact any one of us. Likewise, please contact us if you are interested in umpiring or scoring games. We can help organise training and you can earn a £45 a match fee.

Finally, our thanks to our vice-presidents, members and other followers who continue to support the Club. We lost most of our sponsors and local advertisers last year for obvious reasons and saw a big reduction in match and membership fees. Without support from the community, plus some grants from sporting bodies, our finances would be in a perilous state.

Simon Oldfield Simon.oldfield0@gmail.com

Joe Roberts jroberts01@btinternet.com

Laura Jenkinson ljenkinson@hotmail.com

Deddington Tennis Club

The Tennis Club is closed in line with national guidelines. We will reopen as soon as the government and LTA give us the go ahead. Please keep an eye on our website which will be updated and it will also detail any restrictions in place to keep everyone safe.

One of our longest serving members, Trevor Stevens, turned 80 on 12 January. As we were unable to celebrate his birthday, we put a tribute to Trevor on our website and sent him some goodies to enjoy at home. Many of you will remember the days when joining the club meant Trevor would turn up on your doorstep with a key to the courts. Happier times some might say.

For further information about the Club, to become a member, or to see Trevor's birthday tribute, please go to our [website www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com).

We hope to be able to welcome you back to the Club very soon.

Becky Jones

Deddington Town FC Youth

We briefly returned for some football in December after the second lockdown. The Under 14s lost 4–1 to Ducklington with Leo Thomas-Lidster scoring for us. The Under 12s had a 7–2 win at Bloxham with Fraser Honeyman scoring a hat-trick and William Morris a brace.

Our priority as a club is to maintain the safety of players, parents and coaches. We will be guided by government restrictions and return to training and matches when we believe it is safe to do so.

**Roger Sykes, Development Officer
and U7/U6 Coach 01869 337034**

YOUTH

1st Deddington Brownies

The Brownies have been meeting on Zoom since October half term. We've managed a good range of activities from making Christingles with Revd Annie to cooking Christmas biscuits and sewing finger puppets. This term online there will be games, bread-making and a guest talk by a local vet.

Fern Stringer

deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs and Scouts

We have had a couple of successful Zoom meetings with both packs. We played some games and had a go at making 'sparkle jars' and a flag. I'm still learning to navigate the technology. We will continue to operate as best we can while looking forward to light evenings and the chance to camp out – even in our own gardens.

Jo Churchyard deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Peter Churchyard

deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Since the last DN we have all seen one another's kitchens whilst making pizzas and mug cakes, played Among Us, in which the leaders were less tactically competent than the Explorers, had a 12 Days of Christmas photo challenge, a Christmas Quiz and completed Scoutadelic Spy Hunt 2.

We have an evening of the Explorers setting the programme for the next term so will let you know what is happening next month. If you are interested in joining the Unit contact any of the leaders by the email below or www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk/explorers.html

Janet Duxbury

spartansexplorers@gmail.com